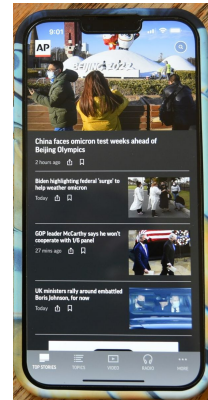


SHARE:

[Join Our Email List](#)[View as Webpage](#)

Connecting

May 13, 2022

Click [here](#) for sound of the Teletype

[Top AP News](#)
[Top AP Photos](#)
[AP Merchandise](#)

[Connecting Archive](#)
[AP Emergency Relief Fund](#)
[AP Books](#)

Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this May 13, 2022,

On Sunday, one of the most outstanding careers in The Associated Press comes to a close when our colleague [Kathy Gannon](#), news director for Afghanistan and Pakistan, retires. She served the AP with distinction for 35 years.

Click [here](#) for an NPR interview with Kathy that was done on Thursday. And see today's The Final Word for photos of her last visit as an AP journalist with her colleagues. Kathy plans to remain a Connecting colleague.

Connecting's trivia quiz asked: Has anyone been a bureau chief in as many bureaus as our late colleague **Gary Clark** – who was CoB in four (Honolulu, New Orleans, Miami and Atlanta)?

Well, when you count international and domestic assignments, we have a colleague with five – **Joe McGowan**, who was chief in New Delhi, Lima, Indianapolis, Boston and Denver. (Shared by Andy Lippman)

When you count domestic alone, our late colleague **George Zucker** equaled Gary's total with four – Honolulu, Baltimore, Des Moines and Philadelphia. (Shared by Rich Kirkpatrick)

And **Dan Sewell** has his own trivia challenge: "I worked for Gary Clark in both Miami and Atlanta and for COB **Jim Reindl** in both Miami and Chicago. It is unusual to work for the same COB in multiple cities?"

Services for **Gary Clark** are set for 11:30 Wednesday morning, May 18, at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Tallahassee. His wife Fay asks that any contributions in Gary's honor be directed to the Alzheimer's Foundation.

This Sunday marks the [one-year anniversary](#) of an Israeli airstrike that destroyed a high-rise building that housed the AP office in the Gaza Strip. Twelve AP staffers and freelancers were working and resting in the bureau on that Saturday afternoon when the Israeli military telephoned a warning, giving occupants of the building one hour to evacuate. Everyone was able to get out, grabbing a few belongings, before three heavy missiles struck the 12-story building, collapsing it into a giant cloud of dust. (Shared by Valerie Komor)

Have a great weekend – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

More memories of Dean Fosdick, Gary Clark

[Hal Spencer](#) - I'm sad to learn the human dynamo, Fearless Fosdick, has left this earth. I hired Dean to run the Juneau Bureau in 1983. My first encounter with him was by phone in 1982, when he called from the General Desk to ask if somebody could scoot from Anchorage to Dutch Harbor to get a byline for a crab boat sinking in the Bering Sea. When I explained we were talking 800 miles away and sinkings were not uncommon, he not only understood but was hooked. Wow! He said. Alaska is big and exciting. I need to go there!

In 1985, I came down from Anchorage and Dean and I covered the three-week impeachment trial of Gov. Bill Sheffield, accused of steering a lucrative construction contract to a friend. I took AMs and he PMs. I'd awake on my air mattress at Dean's house at 5 every morning to the smell of bacon, eggs, pancakes, and coffee--Dean the cook up since 4 to after hitting the rack at midnight. Dean broke the biggest story of the trial. An impeccable source told him lawmakers were pulling the plug for lack of evidence. We went with it. Later that day, the official announcement came.

I could go on and on with stories about Dean Fosdick. What a guy. May his memory bring a smile.

-0-

[Kevin Noblet](#) - Gary Clark was my first COB and my best COB. He hired me, in 1981, from a small CT daily for 10 weeks of legislative relief in New Orleans and then gave me a full-time job when I didn't screw up. The Louisiana and Mississippi members kept him busy, so he was away often, and when he was in the bureau he stuck mostly to his office behind a glass wall, leaving the always-humming news report to News Editor Kent Prince.

But Gary made himself heard through the news log, a typed-out affair updated during and at the end of each shift. Gary contributed to it pretty much every day, and he must have dictated many entries while on the road. When Gary added something to the log, you paid close attention, because he was either praising the report or calling you out. And he missed nothing, ever. I learned much from both from his close attention to detail and his arms-length leadership, his tacit trust in the people who worked for him.

Later, when I moved on in my career, I loved the way he brightened whenever he saw someone who once worked from him. He truly reveled in the success of his people.

He could be prim and proper, as the New Englander he was, but not too much so when Fay Clark was around. She'd tease him and tell stories about him out of turn, pricking that serious image he liked to present and making him go red. That they loved each other was obvious.

Memories stirred by story of Lech Walesa uniting with Adolphe Bernotas



Dennis Conrad in 2019 in Poznan, Poland, at Solidarnosc trade union exhibit

Dennis Conrad - I was overjoyed to see in Thursday's Connecting my Solidarnosc hero Lech Walesa united in New Hampshire with Guild hero Adolphe Bernotas for the cause of Ukraine and its fight for freedom against the war crimes of Putin's Russia. I had been wondering in recent weeks how Lech was doing these days - decades after I first saw him with my visiting Polish brother-in-law Slawomir at a rally in Chicago at Daley Plaza in November 1989.

I still have a poster from that period that promoted the event led by Lech and attended by Illinois Gov. James R. Thompson after Solidarnosc's sweeping victories in historic free elections in Poland a few months earlier. I added another poster to my collection while covering the 1990 gubernatorial campaign for AP and being at a rally at a Chicago union hall.

Just a decade earlier, I actually was in Poland as the Solidarnosc trade movement spread like wildfire through the Communist-ruled nation after the Gdansk shipyard strike of August 1980. My father-in-law had passed away in Poznan so my wife and I had taken leave from our Florida home and my job at the Gainesville Sun for a few months that fall to be with her family. I will never forget a soccer match I attended in the industrial city of Lodz when its team hosted Juventus Turin. About 40,000 men were packed like sardines in the stadium, the field surrounded by armed policemen, vodka bottles and apple cores flying from the stands while the fans serenaded the cops with "Kurwy do roboty!" (whores to work!) The Poles beat the legendary Italian soccer club and their fans took to the streets like from a revolutionary scene in the movie "Doctor Zhivago."

In December 1980, we boarded a return flight to the USA as fears gripped Poland and the rest of the world that the Soviet Union was ready to launch an invasion of its western neighbor. I later learned my mother-in-law's apartment in Poznan was visited by a U.S. Consul employee in Poznan seeking my whereabouts because a reporter for The New York Times (the company that then owned the Gainesville Sun) had a package for me to take back to the States. As we all know now, the Russian invasion of Poland never came in 1980, but eventually Polish leader/General Wojciech Jaruzelski did declare martial law and put Solidarnosc leaders like Walesa under arrest.

Amazingly, not even before the decade would end, I would get an envelope in November 1989 as an AP Illinois Statehouse newsman from my former boss, Washington DC newsman Robert Greene, for whom I had worked when he was AP Cleveland correspondent:

"Panie Conrad! Here is the Polish text of Lech Walesa's speech to Congress. I thought you'd like it as a souvenir. Best wishes, Robert."

Indeed.

Connecting at its best, Robert.

So I thought as a proud Polish American, on the side of my late mother, Helena Wilinska Conrad, the daughter of Zofia Smiglewska (1896-1918 New Jersey Influenza

Epidemic) and Tomasz Wilinski (1888-1944 Nazi concentration camp victim, Stutthof, Poland).

Thanks to the wonders of AncestryDNA, I can also tell longtime Guild brother Adolphe that I am part Baltic (read Lithuanian etc.), the region immediately to the north of my ancestors in northeastern Poland.

As for Ukraine, I offer this as encouraging news. Poland won its war with the Soviet Union in 1920, famously defeating the Russians in the Battle of the Vistula. (I spent 10 full days researching that in the Library of Congress when I was a college kid!) It would pave the way for my grandfather who came to America from Czarist "Russian" Poland in 1905 to work in a Pennsylvania glassworks-factory to return to a free Poland in 1921 upon leaving his job as a New Jersey factory worker.

Connecting mailbox

Thoughts on death of Shireen Abu Akleh

[Dan Perry](#) - A few thoughts about the tragic death of Al Jazeera's iconic journalist Shireen Abu Akleh covering an IDF operation in Jenin in the West Bank.

The courage of journalists who cover war zones is astounding. Why do they do it? It is relevant especially today in Ukraine, obviously. And with sad regularity it comes up again and again, belying poor Francis Fukuyama's notion of history ending. It is not ending at all, and it takes the form, as it ever did, of horrible iniquities and human cruelties alongside advancements and progress. Who can set which way it nets positive? None of us can.

The Palestinians are ridiculous for denying Israel a joint investigation into her death. If someone shot Shirin on purpose it is more likely the Palestinian irregulars involved the battle did than the IDF. If someone shot her by mistake then that is again more likely the Palestinian irregulars involved in the battle. It is clear that the Palestinian Authority assumes Israel will be unfairly blamed and attempts to milk it. Not cool.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

Back when I worked for Secretariat's trainer

[Mike Hammer](#) - I enjoyed reading in Connecting this week a couple of accounts of encounters with the great Secretariat.

I worked for Secretariat's trainer, Lucien Laurin, at Belmont Park in June and early July of 1972, as

Secretariat began his racing career. It was the first of six summer vacations from high school and college that I would spend working as a “hotwalker” at Belmont and Saratoga, walking horses around the barn after their morning workouts and their afternoon races until they had cooled out and were ready to go back in their stall.



Secretariat was one of the many unraced 2-year-olds in Laurin’s two barns when I started working there. He was in the barn with the other Meadow Stable horses, including Riva Ridge, who had just won the Kentucky Derby and the Belmont Stakes. Probably because I was inexperienced, I was assigned most mornings to the second barn, where Laurin trained horses for owners other than Penny Tweedy's Meadow Stable. So I don’t think I ever got a chance to walk Secretariat.

I wasn't able to work there for the full summer; in early July, my ride to the track was no longer available, and having just turned 16, I had signed up for the summer driver education classes offered at my high school on Long Island. So I left that job right around the time Secretariat first raced.

If only I could have stayed there through the rest of the summer, I'm sure I would have come away with some great memories of working with the next Triple Crown winner. Instead, my favorite memory of Secretariat is from the day a year later when I stood and cheered along with 69,000 others at Belmont Park as he won the Belmont Stakes by 31 lengths.

-0-

DUDES!

Scott Charton - This is not a partisan comment, but rather an acknowledgement of age and actuarial tables (and it’s written by a soon-to-be 61-year-old white male):

Joe Biden is 79, Donald Trump is 75, and the November 5, 2024, general election is about two and one-half years away.

Various credible authorities put the average life expectancy of men in North America between 75 and 78 years of age.

I wish everyone good health, and to be sure, both Presidents Biden and Trump have the best available health care, and far above average personal security to safeguard them on just about every level and in about every way.

Still, look at how the presidency has inexorably aged the men who held the office. It’s a meat grinder with nonstop pressure. Harry Truman reportedly called the White House “the finest prison in the world” for the person in the hot seat.

Now, as a sexagenarian, I'm not down on seniors. I am one.

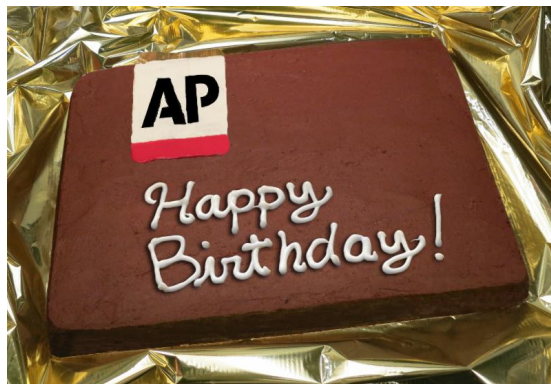
I prize the wisdom of experience, or at least buy into some of its myths. Of course, we know lots of folks are active, alert, engaged and productive until the curtain comes down at well-advanced ages. And let's not ignore the appeal of holding onto power for these two guys, who both like being the center of attention and a unique hub of global influence - the ultimate big shots.

But dang - a lot of hopes are riding across the spectrum for 2024 on a couple of old dudes.

Me? If I were their age and had the dough, I'd spend my time spoiling grandbabies. And smile.

Pass The Torch.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Tricia English](#)

On Saturday to...

[Brian Carovillano](#)

[Charles Richards](#)

Stories of interest

Psaki: Threats to family were 'most personally difficult' part of press secretary job (Politico)

By QUINT FORGEY

Outgoing White House press secretary Jen Psaki on Thursday described in personal terms her 16-month tenure as President Joe Biden's top spokesperson and the strains of the job, telling a group of reporters over breakfast that she had received threats to her family, which warranted Secret Service involvement.

"I will say the thing that has been hardest personally is I've had threats," Psaki said during the event, which was sponsored by the Christian Science Monitor and took place at the St. Regis hotel in Washington, D.C.

"I have had nasty letters, texts to me with my personal address, the names of my children," White House press secretary Jen Psaki said. | Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images

Psaki said the safety of her two children, who are 4 and 6 years old, remains "a real concern," as some of the messages she received were from "people threatening to come to my house."

"There have been cases where I've had to share information with [the Secret Service], and I certainly have shared information with them," Psaki said, adding that no one threatening has appeared outside her personal residence.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

Honoring China's Heroes – China Media Project

Just over a decade ago, veteran journalist Luo Changping, then deputy editor-in-chief of one of China's most influential magazines, was a stand-out example of the best in Chinese journalism – a professional dedicated to the facts and to the hard-nosed techniques needed to ferret them out in a challenging environment. In November 2013, his work exposing official corruption earned him back-to-back international and domestic honors, first the "Integrity Award" from Transparency International, and later the China Hero Award from NetEase.

But the days are long gone when journalists in China can be openly lauded as heroes for asking hard questions about those in positions of power. On May 5, Luo Changping was sentenced to a seven-month prison term for "infringing the reputation and honor of national heroes and martyrs." His punishment is a potent illustration of how profoundly values have shifted in Chinese media and society under the iron-fisted rule of Xi Jinping.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Arnold Zeitlin.

-0-

'The New York Times' can't shake the cloud over a 90-year-old Pulitzer Prize (NPR)

DAVID FOLKENFLIK

The New York Times is looking to add to its list of 132 Pulitzer Prizes — by far the most of any news organization — when the 2022 recipients for journalism are announced on Monday.

Yet the war in Ukraine has renewed questions of whether the Times should return a Pulitzer awarded 90 years ago for work by Walter Duranty, its charismatic chief correspondent in the Soviet Union.

"He is the personification of evil in journalism," says Oksana Piaseckyj, a Ukrainian-American activist who came to the U.S. as a child refugee in 1950. She is among the advocates for the return of the award. "We think he was like the originator of fake news."

A new voice now adds himself to the cause: former New York Times executive editor Bill Keller — himself a Pulitzer Prize winner in 1989 for his own reporting for the Times on the Soviet Union.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Dan Berger.

-0-

Pentagon Spokesman Praises NYT For Pulitzer Win on Coverage of U.S. Military Airstrikes Killing Civilians (MEDIAite)

JACKSON RICHMAN

Pentagon spokesperson John Kirby praised The New York Times on Tuesday for winning the Pulitzer Prize in International Reporting for its series on U.S. airstrikes causing civilian casualties.

During the Pentagon press briefing, Kirby congratulated the Pulitzer Prize recipients and specifically gave a shoutout to Ukrainian journalists and the Times.

"It's tough to read, tough to watch, but, you know what?" he said. "It should be, based on what Mr. [Vladimir] Putin is doing. And the bravery and skill that they are showing every day is truly inspiring, just as the work of the — the fighting of the Ukrainian soldiers is."

Kirby continued:

I also would be remiss if I didn't also congratulate the staff of The New York Times for the Pulitzer that they won in their coverage of civilian casualties caused by the United

States military and military operations. That coverage was—and it still is—not comfortable, not easy, and not simple to address. We know that we had more work to do to better prevent civilian harm. And we're doing that work. We knew that we had made mistakes, we're trying to learn from those mistakes. And we knew that we weren't always as transparent about those mistakes as we should be. But their reporting reinforced those concerns and, in some cases, gave us cause for additional concerns. And it made us ask ourselves some new and difficult questions of our own, even as it forced us to answer their difficult questions. I cannot say that this process was pleasant. But I guess that's the whole point. It's not supposed to be. That's what a free press at its very best does, it holds us to account and makes us think even as it informs. It changes our minds and it helps us make — it helps us better at our big job of defending this nation. The talented staff and reporters of The New York Times, some of whom work in this very press corps alongside you, have done all that. And, yes, we are grateful to them for it. We know they're happy for the Pulitzer, but we hope that they are also content in the knowledge that they made a real difference on a real and very challenging issue.

Read more [here](#).

The Final Word

Saying farewell to her AP colleagues





Kathy Gannon - Just a few pictures as I leave Afghanistan - though never ever forever - as the countdown to my May 15 retirement looms. It is bittersweet but it is time it is always good to go before folks are pushing you out the door, but I love Afghanistan and Pakistan and I am not leaving either and most certainly not the people.

In the large group picture - that is the staff of the AP Kabul bureau, everyone from the guards to the drivers, to our wonderful woman who looked after the large house Waheeda.

The other picture with ex-president Hamid Karzai and I includes several tribal leaders with whom we shared a lunch at Karzai's residence.

And finally at the Kabul International airport myself and our long, long-time driver Abdullah Rahimi who has worked with AP for 25 years. He was there in 2001 when a US bomb was dropped on a house behind us and the powerful impact blew out our windows and doors, threw me across the room, glass everywhere and difficult to see through the dust of the explosion.

Today in History - May 13, 2022



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, May 13, the 133rd day of 2022. There are 232 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 13, 1981, Pope John Paul II was shot and seriously wounded in St. Peter's Square by Turkish assailant Mehmet Ali Agca (MEH'-met AH'-lee AH'-juh).

On this date:

In 1607, English colonists arrived by ship at the site of what became the Jamestown settlement in Virginia (the colonists went ashore the next day).

In 1914, heavyweight boxing champion Joe Louis was born in Lafayette, Alabama.

In 1917, three shepherd children reported seeing a vision of the Virgin Mary near Fatima, Portugal; it was the first of six such apparitions that the children claimed to have witnessed.

In 1940, in his first speech as British prime minister, Winston Churchill told Parliament, "I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat."

In 1972, 118 people died after fire broke out at the Sennichi Department Store in Osaka, Japan.

In 1973, in tennis' first so-called "Battle of the Sexes," Bobby Riggs defeated Margaret Court 6-2, 6-1 in Ramona, California. (Billie Jean King soundly defeated Riggs at the Houston Astrodome in September.)

In 1985, a confrontation between Philadelphia authorities and the radical group MOVE ended as police dropped a bomb onto the group's row house, igniting a fire that killed 11 people and destroyed 61 homes.

In 1994, President Bill Clinton nominated federal appeals Judge Stephen G. Breyer to the U.S. Supreme Court to replace retiring Justice Harry A. Blackmun; Breyer went on to win Senate confirmation.

In 2002, President George W. Bush announced that he and Russian President Vladimir Putin (POO'-tihh) would sign a treaty to shrink their countries' nuclear arsenals by two-thirds.

In 2016, the Obama administration issued a directive requiring public schools to permit transgender students to use bathrooms and locker rooms consistent with their chosen gender identity.

In 2019, Doris Day, the sunny blond film star and singer who appeared in comedic roles opposite Rock Hudson and Cary Grant in the 1950s and 1960s, died at her California home at the age of 97.

In 2020, the Wisconsin Supreme Court struck down Gov. Tony Evers' coronavirus stay-at-home order, ruling that his administration had overstepped its authority by extending the order for another month.

Ten years ago: The mutilated bodies of 49 people were found near Monterrey, Mexico, apparent victims of a drug cartel. Donald "Duck" Dunn, 70, the bassist who helped create the gritty Memphis soul sound at Stax Records in the 1960s as part of the legendary group Booker T. and the MGs, died in Tokyo while on tour.

Five years ago: Donald Trump used his first commencement address as president to urge graduates of Liberty University, a Christian school in Lynchburg, Virginia, to follow their convictions, prepare to face criticism and relish the opportunity to be an "outsider." Pope Francis, during a Mass in Fatima, Portugal, added two shepherd children to the roster of Catholic saints, honoring siblings Francisco and Jacinta Marto, who reported visions of the Virgin Mary 100 years earlier.

One year ago: Israel said it was massing troops along the Gaza frontier and calling up 9,000 reservists ahead of a possible ground invasion of the Hamas-ruled territory. Communal violence in Israel erupted for a fourth night, with Jewish and Arab mobs clashing in the flashpoint town of Lod. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention eased mask-wearing guidance for fully vaccinated people, allowing them to stop

wearing masks outdoors in crowds and in most indoor settings. Prosecutors said an active-duty Marine Corps officer who was seen on camera scuffling with a police officer and helping other members of a pro-Trump mob force their way into the Capitol on Jan. 6 had been charged in the riot; Maj. Christopher Warnagiris was the first active-duty member to be charged in the insurrection.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Buck Taylor is 84. Actor Harvey Keitel is 83. Author Charles Baxter is 75. Actor Zoe Wanamaker is 74. Actor Franklyn Ajaye is 73. Singer Stevie Wonder is 72. Former Ohio Gov. John Kasich (KAY'-sikh) is 70. Actor Leslie Winston is 66. Producer-writer Alan Ball is 65. Basketball Hall of Famer Dennis Rodman is 61. "Late Show" host Stephen Colbert (kohl-BEHR') is 58. Rock musician John Richardson is 58. Actor Tom Verica is 58. Singer Darius Rucker (Hootie and the Blowfish) is 56. Actor Susan Floyd is 54. Actor Brian Geraghty is 47. Actor Samantha Morton is 45. Sen. Tom Cotton, R-Ark., is 45. Former NBA player Mike Bibby is 44. Rock musician Mickey Madden (Maroon 5) is 43. Actor Iwan Rheon is 37. Actor-writer-director Lena Dunham is 36. Actor Robert Pattinson is 36. Actor Candice Accola King is 35. Actor Hunter Parrish is 35. Folk-rock musician Wylie Gelber (Dawes) is 34. NHL defenseman P.K. Subban is 34. Actor Debby Ryan is 29.

Got a story or photos to share?

Connecting is a daily newsletter published Monday through Friday that focuses on retired and former Associated Press employees, present-day employees, and news industry and journalism school colleagues. It began in 2013 and past issues can be found by clicking Connecting Archive in the masthead. Its author, Paul Stevens, retired from the AP in 2009 after a 36-year career as a newsman in Albany and St. Louis, correspondent in Wichita, chief of bureau in Albuquerque, Indianapolis and Kansas City, and Midwest vice president based in Kansas City.

Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!



Here are some suggestions:

- **Connecting "selfies"** - a word and photo self-profile of you and your career, and what you are doing today. Both for new members and those who have been with us a while.
- **Second chapters** - You finished a great career. Now tell us about your second (and third and fourth?) chapters of life.

- **Spousal support** - How your spouse helped in supporting your work during your AP career.
- **My most unusual story** - tell us about an unusual, off the wall story that you covered.
- **"A silly mistake that you make"** - a chance to 'fess up with a memorable mistake in your journalistic career.
- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.
- **Volunteering** - benefit your colleagues by sharing volunteer stories - with ideas on such work they can do themselves.
- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?
- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.

Paul Stevens
Editor, Connecting newsletter
paulstevens46@gmail.com